



SOCIAL ACTION DIGEST®

Helpful Hints for Henpecked Husbands

and other editorial opinions.

If you are looking for the promised article on the shortcomings of men, you are looking in vain. No shortcomings! At least, that seems to be the unanimous opinion of THOUSANDS of female readers of SOCIAL ACTION DIGEST in 48 states and 20 foreign countries. They had a golden opportunity when we offered them the pages of S. A. DIGEST for a retort to the article which appeared last month: "A Man's Life in a Woman's World" - but none of them used it. There were a few letters on the subject, it's true, but nothing more than empty threats. One lady wrote, for instance: "If I could only write, I could give you reams of material..." But the point is, SHE DIDN'T! Only one reader gave us a clipping, but it dealt with the difficulties men encounter in trying to be good fathers and we felt it was unsportsmanlike to print further excuses for men. As a result, we haven't had a critical article about men since "The Decline of the American Male" in April 1959. All of this should provide new courage to the 14.5% of males who fall into the category of "henpecked husbands." Lift up your heads, poor dears! Things can't be too bad, if the ladies have no complaints. (...Your wife is different, you say? Well, why don't you improve?)

On the more serious side: You will find some valuable information on current events in this issue. There is a translation of the joint pastoral by the Cuban bishops dealing with the threat of Communism, a historically important document and a symbol of great courage. There is also an outline of the shameful segregation laws recently passed by the Louisiana Legislature. It is saddening that some of the most extreme members of the "White Citizens Councils" are Catholics. It is hard to understand how "Christians" can consistently refuse to love their neighbor by denying him even the most basic justice and charity. Many prudent but courageous efforts and many prayers will be needed before the Mystical Body of Christ is truly united in charity. Ironically enough, the same state of Louisiana which has now legally abolished compulsory education and is threatening to close its schools, has proclaimed a "Teachers Day." (See page 7.) The reason: Education is so important!

This November issue will reach you at a very late date. Your editor apologizes for the delay and promises that it won't happen again. If the current trend of new subscriptions continues through December, we will be able to offer you a much improved SOCIAL ACTION DIGEST in 1961. Don't postpone your gift subscriptions! Surprise your friends: they may give you something really worthwhile in return.

Keep smiling!

Hubert F. Schiffer, S.J.

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TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE

A Joint Pastoral by the Cuban Hierarchy, Issued on August 7, 1960

Dearly beloved in Christ: Almighty God didn't create the world with the intent that the goods obtained therefrom as a result of the genius and labor of man would serve to make life more pleasant for a few while innumerable human beings would lack adequate means to satisfy their most elementary needs. A more just distribution of wealth has always been and continues to be, as Pope Pius XII has said, an essential point of Catholic social doctrine.

Thus, the Church always recognizes with great sympathy all measures that would contribute to raising the standard of living of the poor; and such measures have been used in recent times in our country and have been recognized in the declarations that repeatedly have been released by various of the bishops signed below.

Proposals of "Agrarian Reform"

It was in fact an occasion of satisfaction for the Church, when, more than a year ago, it was announced that an agrarian reform was planned. By justly indemnifying the landowners, the plan was going to permit hundreds of thousands of farmers to become the owners of the lands that they worked. We also heard with extreme gratification that there was consideration of immense industrialization projects, through which, without destroying private industry, the government was going to aid in the creation of new sources of employment that would serve as effective remedies for the grave problem of unemployment. The Church also saw with satisfaction that there were authorities interested in taking steps directed toward increasing the income of the more needy classes. It welcomed the prospect of the multiplication of schools and hospitals, the adaptation of construction of beaches and sports fields to which persons with the lowest incomes would have access, and it rejoiced that there were those who were trying to bring to the most forgotten of our brothers, the farmer of the poorest areas of Cuba, the benefit and advantages of civilized life. It applauded the construction in the city and country in all the provinces of the Republic of hundreds of inexpensive homes that were helping to resolve the oppressing problem of housing for the people. It observed with patriotic fervor the energetic fight that was taking place to clean up the public administration and to extirpate the vices of gambling and eliminate unjust restrictions imposed upon many of our brothers because of the color of their skin.

The social reforms that, respecting the legitimate rights of all citizens, tend to improve the economic, cultural and social conditions of the poor therefore have today and will always have the most devoted moral support of the Church.

Nevertheless, we would fail in our duty to tell the faithful and the Cuban people generally the whole truth, if in balancing the positive and negative aspects of the situation existing today in our country, we didn't inform you also with no less clarity of our concerns and fears.

We could point out some examples in which the previously mentioned social measures have not been executed with due respect to all citizens as initially announced. But, we believe that it would be better to limit ourselves to one extraordinarily grave problem that no person of good will can deny in these times, and that is the increasing advance of Communism in our country.

The Advance of Communism

In the past months, the Cuban government has established close commercial, cultural and diplomatic relations with the governments of the principal Communist countries, and particularly the Soviet Union. We have nothing to say from a pastoral point of view about the strictly commercial or economic aspects of these ties, but we are deeply disturbed by the fact that, because of them, newspapermen, government officials and even certain high members of the government have repeatedly and enthusiastically praised the way of life existing in those countries, and have suggested, even in speeches made within and outside of Cuba, the existence of coincidences and analogies, in objectives and procedures, between the social revolutions of those countries and the Cuban revolution.

This point is a cause of grave concern to us because Catholicism and Communism stem from two concepts of man and of the world that are totally opposed to each other and can never be reconciled. We condemn Communism, in the first place, because it is an essentially atheistic and materialistic doctrine and because the governments guided by it number among the worst enemies that the Church and humanity have known in all history. Deceitfully affirming that they profess the most absolute respect for all religions, Communists proceed step by step in every country to destroy all of the social, charitable, educational, and apostolic pursuits of the Church. They disorganized it internally by jailing the most active and zealous bishops and priests on the most varied pretexts.

We also condemn Communism because it is a system that brutally denies the most fundamental rights of the human person: because the Communists establish a dictatorial regime in all spheres in order to achieve total control by the State over the means of production, through a small group imposing itself by police terror upon the rest of their fellow-citizens; because they completely subordinate the economy to politics sacrificing the welfare of the people often to the ambitions and convenience of the governing group; because they progressively annul the right to property and in the long run turn all citizens, more than into employees, into veritable slaves of the state; because they deny to people the right to know the truth by the state becoming owner of all the means of information and not allowing opinions other than those maintained by the governing group to reach the citizens; because they unjustly subordinate family life to the state compelling the women to perform the hardest tasks outside the home and educating the children according to the form that the state wishes regardless of the parents' desires.

Therefore, in condemning the Communist doctrine and procedure, the Church does not do it in a sense partial to the wishes of pressure groups that could be affected by the establishment of a regime of this type; it does it in the name of the inalienable rights of all men which in one form or another are violated without scruple by the Communist governments.

We Refuse to be Silenced!

Remember, then, beloved brethren, and tell it in a loud voice to all Cuba, that the Church fears nothing from the most wide-reaching social reforms whenever they are based on justice and charity, because it wishes and rejoices in the well-being of the people. Precisely because of that, however, because it loves the people and desires their good, it cannot but condemn the Communist doctrines. The Church is today and will always be for the poor, but it is not and will never be with Communism.

Therefore, let no one dare to ask Catholics, in the name of a poorly understood unity of citizens, that we keep silent in our opposition to these doctrines,

because we could not do that without betraying our most fundamental principles. The absolute majority of the Cuban people is against materialistic and atheistic Communism, for they are Catholic: they could be led to Communism only by deception or coercion. May the Blessed Virgin of Charity never allow this to take place in Cuba.

Thus, we pray to God our Lord by the intercession of our sublime Patroness.

Signed: Manuel, Cardinal Arteaga, Archbishop of Havana
 Enrique, Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba
 Alberto, Bishop of Matanzas
 Carlos, Bishop of Camagney
 Evelio, Archbishop Coadjutor of Havana
 Manuel, Bishop of Pinar de Rio
 Alfredo, Apostolic Administrator of Cienfuegos
 Jose, Auxiliary Bishop of Havana
 Eduardo, Auxiliary Bishop of Havana.

THE STRANGE CASE OF "THE CATHOLIC WORKER"

"The Catholic Worker," a small monthly published in New York, recently gave front-page publicity to an article trying to brainwash its readers by strongly defending the Cuban revolution and denying its Communist leanings. The article, "Cuba As I See It," was written by William Worthy, one of the three U.S. newsmen who defied the State Department's ban on travel to Red China. It is a vitriolic attack on all those who say that the Cuban revolutionaries are under Communist influence. A few quotes will be sufficient to show the strong bias of the author:

"Of many definite statements on the nationalistic outlook of the Cuban revolution, one by Fidel Castro particularly appeals to me, because it puts Cuba on the side of freedom. In answer to shrill and willfully dishonest accusations from the United States, Premier Castro declared: 'I am not a communist, and neither is the revolutionary movement communistic.'

"The Cuba of 1960 ... is one of the freest countries I have visited. In terms of personal liberty she ranks today with India, England, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries. ... The framers of England's Magna Carta would feel comfortable in Cuba today, because the important freedoms are here: habeas corpus, which is basic to human liberty; the freedom to speak, to publish, to worship, to travel at home or abroad.

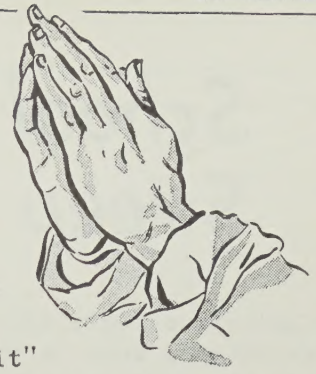
"The people are enjoying the substance of democracy. We must mobilize 'Hands Off Cuba' sentiment. Cubans should not be denied the freedom to run their country according to twentieth century concepts of true independence."

We couldn't agree more with your last sentence, Mr. Worthy! This is exactly what the Cuban bishops had in mind when they published their joint pastoral. We wish you wouldn't try to build up Castro and his gang who are undermining this very freedom. Whatever they are, they are NOT harmless "agrarian reformers."

"Cuba As I See It" was published in July-August 1960. The so-called "Catholic Worker" has promoted some rather strange ideas, to say the least, on civil disobedience, etc. It's a free country, and these people have a right to their private opinions. Members of the "Catholic Worker" group have helped the poor at great personal sacrifices and earned our admiration for that part of their operations. We can't help wondering, however, how much damage this small group of individuals can do to the Church by publishing such biased material as the above article while posing as self-appointed spokesmen for the CATHOLIC workers. This type of reporting is anything but "Catholic." Who stands to gain by giving it front-page publicity?

Prayer for Industry

By REV. RICHARD M. McKEON, S.J.



Almighty God, we ask Thy blessing on all who work.
Let there be no harsh distinction
Between the thinking worker and the working thinker,
For both are participating in Thy creative power
And in fulfilling Thy command "Fill the earth and subdue it"
That society may prosper through the production of honest goods and services.
For You have made this world a workshop and proving ground for mankind
Where all may fulfill their destiny
By love and service, avoiding hate and greed,
In advancing the common good.

Make us ever conscious that Thy divine Son, Jesus Christ,
Bestowed honor on all honest labor
In His apprenticeship at Nazareth and in the gracious toil of the hidden life.
Let all in industry be mindful of the lessons of the Sermon on the Mount
Wherein He laid down principles of social action
Which guarantee for all men a sufficiency of the goods of time
And the promise of eternal reward.
Let us never forget that He is still a mediator between Tee and men.
Through the light of Thy grace
May labor and management recognize clearly
Their respective rights and corresponding responsibilities.

For industry, to be stable and prosperous, calls for
Unity of purpose and action, of cordial collaboration,
That the fruits of Thy providence be wisely destributed
And no man lack his daily bread.
Let all be appreciative of the investment which creates jobs,
Bless those who, with this thought in mind, risk their capital;
For a man willing to work and unemployed is shackled in body and mind.

Let there be a stop to featherbedding at all levels of production
And to exploitation in any form
"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and to lose his soul?"
Inspire all in a worthy and constructive use of leisure time
That they may seek opportunity for self-development and growth in sanctification
To portray the true splendor of humanity.

Dear God, in beseeching all these things we hope to see
An end to industrial discord and violence,
A fostering of justice and love that
"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
To this end enlighten those in authority
To avoid extreme policies of the right or left,
To reconcile individual rights with the needs of the common good,
To aid men to be versed in the knowledge and sanctified in the practice
Of social justice and charity.

Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Reprinted from THE TABLET (1 Hanson Place,
Brooklyn 17, New York), September 3, 1960.

School Segregation Bills Sweep Through La. House

The Louisiana Legislature met for eight hours on Sunday, November 6, in an extraordinary session to enact "emergency" laws trying to prevent the transfer of five first-grade negro girls to two formerly all-white schools in the city of New Orleans. Here is an outline of the most important laws. Editorial comment is unnecessary - these shameful laws speak for themselves.

Act #2 authorizes the arrest and prosecution under Louisiana law of any (federal) "judge, marshal or other officer, agent or employee of the U. S." who enforces, attempts to enforce, or serves process in connection with, any federal court order predicated upon the decision of the Supreme Court in the school desegregation cases.

Act #10 empowers the governor to close public schools when threatened or disrupted by disorder, riots, or violence.

Acts #11 and #12 empower the governor to close schools under a (federal) court order to carry on any program, plan, or rule not consistent with state laws or the policy of the state board of education.

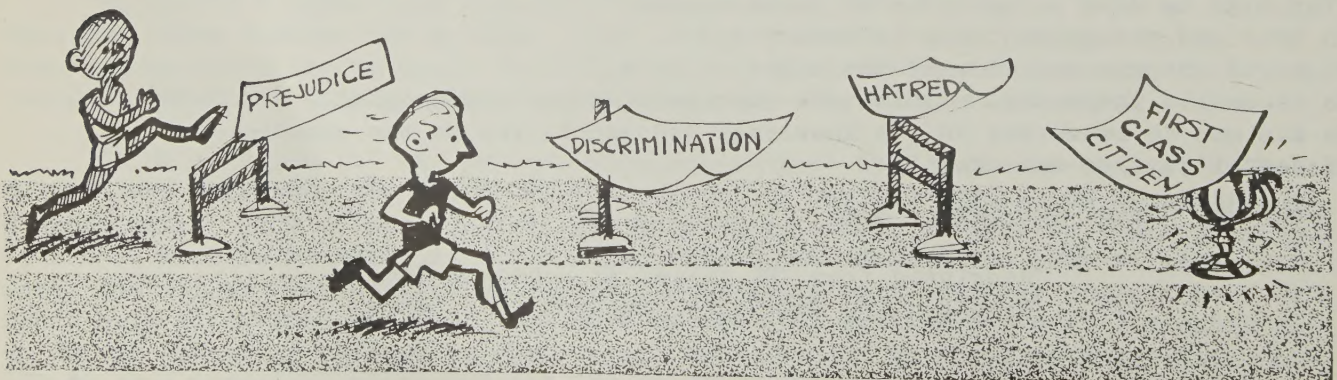
Act #13, under penalty of fine or imprisonment, prohibits furnishing free school books or supplies and requires withholding of state funds for operation of school lunch programs from schools ordered to operate under a plan inconsistent with state laws or policies.

Act #18 withdraws all powers, duties and functions of the New Orleans school board and passes them on to the state legislature.

Act #24 requires the state board of education to revoke the teaching certificate of any public school teacher who instructs in a class in violation of the state constitution and laws, prohibits the payment of their salaries, and threatens revocation of a principal's license.

Act #25 denies promotion and graduation credits to pupils who attend schools in violation of state laws.

Act #28 repeals the compulsory school attendance law.



From INTRODUCING YCW (Young Christian Workers, 1655 Jackson Boulevard, Chicago 12, Illinois). Cartoon by Don O'Connell.

STATE OF LOUISIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
BATON ROUGEPROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, an efficient system of education is vital to the well-being of the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the efficiency of our educational system is necessarily measured in terms of the efficiency and effectiveness of those who comprise the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, the unselfish devotion to duty on the part of our school teachers has contributed materially to the high peak of the education system in our state; and

WHEREAS, it behooves us, as citizens of the state, to recognize the contribution of these teachers to our cultural, social and economic life,

NOW, THEREFORE, DO I, JIMMIE H. DAVIS, Governor of Louisiana, proclaim the day of November 7, 1960 to be

TEACHERS DAY

in Louisiana, and do call upon the citizens of our state to join in this observance, in recognition of the role of the teachers of the state in building a greater and more productive Louisiana.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Baton Rouge on this the 20th day of October, 1960.

/s/ J. H. Davis

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Wade O. Martin, Jr.

SECRETARY OF STATE

SOCIAL ACTION DIGEST congratulates
the successful sponsor of Teachers Day:

Rousseau Van Voorhies
State Education Manager
Encyclopaedia Britannica
615 Exposition Boulevard
New Orleans 18, Louisiana

Mr. Van Voorhies will be happy to hear from any of our readers interested in promoting a NATIONAL Teachers Day.

DOUGLAS HYDE COMMUNISTS ARE SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY

The following notes are quoted from the opening lecture of the Loyola University Forum on November 9. The speaker was Mr. Douglas Hyde, the representative of the British Foreign Office to SEATO and chairman of SEATO's Committee for Combatting Psychological Subversion. Mr. Hyde, an active Communist for 12 years and editor of London's Daily Worker, left the party in 1948 and became a Catholic. The history of his conversion is described in his book "I Believed" (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York). The book offers fascinating insights into the Communist mentality and is strongly recommended to our readers.

It is in areas such as Asia, Africa and Latin America that the Communists intend to wage their battle for the world. The new and weak nations look for confidence and they think they see it in the strong dedication of the Communists. They might not like what the Communists stand for, but they will go along with them because the Communist party seems to know where it is going.

One-third of mankind is Communist influenced and one out of every three children born today will be Communist reared! The tragedy lies not in these people's dedication, but in their dedication to an evil creed. We must know and understand the average Communist mentality as it is in order to combat the spread of Communism effectively.

Communism is an ideal, a dream of a good society. It is essentially a revolt against truly existing evils and against an imperfect world. The Communists are spiritually hungry people; they deny all religion and so turn Communism into a substitute religion.

Wherever you have class frustration and distinction and resentment of foreign capital or aid there is fertile ground for the seeds of Communism. The problem of civil rights has great importance in combatting Communism throughout the world. It is situations such as Little Rock that provide the fuel for Communist subversion.

The Communist is trying to change the world and is dedicated enough to do it. The average Communist is prepared not only to live for his system but also to die for it. We will not deserve to win our battle against Communism until we produce dedicated followers in as many numbers as the Communists. It is only when we produce Christians who are as dedicated and whose lives are colored with Christian ideals will it be we and not they who change the world.

The West is chasing rainbows if it believes in the alledged rift between Russia and Red China. Confronted with two Communist forces, we solace ourselves in the hope that they will strangle themselves. This is not a solution to Communism, it is only an alibi for not finding a good and worthwhile solution.

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